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JP 34360.A04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hitoshi TANAKA et al.

Confirmation No.: 5391

Appln. No. : 10/731,473

Examiner: Mohammed A. Hasan

Filed : December 10, 2003

Group Art Unit: 2873

For : STEP ZOOM LENS

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

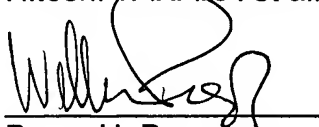
Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Issue Fees
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 5, 2005 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. While Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hitoshi TANAKA et al.


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July 20, 2005
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